

### **AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT**

The following abstract will replace all prior versions of the abstract in the application:

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Flat objects (10) are packaged with a packaging material (1) ~~that, which~~ is supplied as a quasi-endless web. ~~For this purpose, the~~ The packaging material (1) is gripped at one of its surfaces by gripping elements (6), which are spaced from on another spaced at intervals. During conveyance of the packaging material (1) by the gripping elements (6), the distances between the gripping elements (6) are reduced and the packaging material (1) is made to buckle between the gripping elements to one side, ~~such~~ forming a string of bags (1'). During further conveyance these bags (1') are charged with the flat objects (10), are severed from the string of bags, and are sealed. The packaging material, which is supplied, ~~e.g.~~ with its width aligned essentially horizontally, is gripped from above by the gripping elements (6), and therefore buckles downwards by gravity, and the bags are charged from above. The formation of the string of bags is very simple, and for adjusting the bag depth the only measure needed is a corresponding adjustment of the original distance between the gripping elements (6). ~~Buffering the bags prior to being charged or to being sealed is also very easy.~~

(Fig. 1)